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COVER SHEET**TITLE:**

Final Hanford Site Solid (Radioactive and Hazardous) Waste Program Environmental Impact Statement, Richland, Benton County, Washington (DOE/EIS-0286F)

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ABSTRACT:

The Hanford Site Solid (Radioactive and Hazardous) Waste Program Environmental Impact Statement (HSW EIS) provides environmental and technical information concerning U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposed waste management practices at the Hanford Site. The HSW EIS updates analyses of environmental consequences from previous documents and provides evaluations for activities that may be implemented consistent with the Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (WM PEIS) Records of Decision (RODs). Waste types considered in the HSW EIS include operational low-level radioactive waste (LLW), mixed low-level waste (MLLW), immobilized low-activity waste (ILAW), and transuranic (TRU) waste (including TRU mixed waste). MLLW contains chemically hazardous components in addition to radionuclides. Alternatives for management of these wastes at the Hanford Site, including the alternative of No Action, are analyzed in detail. The LLW, MLLW, and TRU waste alternatives are evaluated for a range of waste volumes, representing quantities of waste that could be managed at the Hanford Site. A single maximum forecast volume is evaluated for ILAW. The No Action Alternative considers continuation of ongoing waste management practices at the Hanford Site and ceasing some operations when the limits of existing capabilities are reached. The No Action Alternative provides for continued storage of some waste types. The other alternatives evaluate expanded waste management practices including treatment and disposal of most wastes. The potential environmental consequences of the alternatives are generally similar. The major differences occur with respect to the consequences of disposal versus continued storage and with respect to the range of waste volumes managed under the alternatives. DOE's preferred alternative is to dispose of LLW, MLLW, and ILAW in a single, modular, lined facility near PUREX on Hanford's Central Plateau; to treat MLLW using a combination of onsite and offsite facilities; and to certify TRU waste onsite using a combination of existing, upgraded, and mobile facilities. DOE issued the Notice of Intent to prepare the HSW EIS on October 27, 1997, and held public meetings during the scoping period that extended through January 30, 1998. In April 2002, DOE issued the initial draft of the EIS. During the public comment period that extended from May through August 2002, DOE received numerous comments from regulators, tribal nations, and other stakeholders. In March 2003, DOE issued a revised draft of the HSW EIS to address those comments, and to incorporate disposal of ILAW and other alternatives that had been under consideration since the first draft was published. Comments on the revised draft were received from April 11 through June 11, 2003. This final EIS responds to comments on the revised draft and includes updated analyses to incorporate information developed since the revised draft was published. DOE will publish the ROD(s) in the *Federal Register* no sooner than 30 days after publication of the Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability of the final HSW EIS.

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1.0 Introduction

This Volume IV of the final Hanford Solid Waste Environmental Impact Statement (HSW EIS) consists of submitted comment documents received on the revised draft HSW EIS and transcripts from public meetings.

DOE assessed and considered all comments received on the revised draft HSW EIS, both individually and collectively. DOE developed a database to track and manage all comments received. All documents/comments received were assigned an individual, identification number in accordance with the designation system described below in Table 1.1. Each document received (email, form, letter, or transcript of each speaker at a public meeting) was evaluated for comments that pertained to the HSW EIS, and each identified comment was assigned a sequential number within each document. In a few cases, the comment numbers were not sequential due to adjustments made during the comment response process.

Public meetings to acquire comments on the revised draft HSW EIS were conducted in a combination of forums to allow full participation of the audience and commenters. The overall agenda consisted of periods for introductions, presentations, informal question and answer session, panel discussions, and formal comment periods. The identification of comments from the transcripts of these meetings required close reading and interpretation. The results are shown in the identification of formal comment speakers, numbering of comments related to the revised draft HSW EIS, and bar-coding of copies of the transcripts in this final HSW EIS. Material, such as attachments to comment letters (and other comment documents) that included comments already submitted on the first draft HSW EIS, comments pertaining to other Hanford environmental review documents, and text within comment documents redundant with other text recorded as comments, was not included as comments.

A listing of the individuals and organizations that commented on the revised draft HSW EIS appears in Section 4 of Volume III and is organized alphabetically by commenting organization or individual commenter. All comments and responses are contained in Section 3 of Volume III.

Table 1.1. Comment Document Numbering System

P	Postcard – containing individual unique comments.	F	Comment form – comments received from forms available at each of the six public meetings.
E	Email – individual, unique comments.	TRI	Transcript Richland – transcripts from the public meeting held in Richland, Washington, on May 1, 2003.
EM	Mass email – consisting of identical comments per each email.	TSP	Transcript Spokane – transcripts from the public meeting held in Spokane, Washington, on May 7, 2003.
EMM	Modified mass email – consisting of comments that are a variation on a mass email.	TLG	Transcript La Grande – transcripts from the public meeting held in La Grande, Oregon, on May 12, 2003.
L	Letter – containing individual unique comments.	TPO	Transcript Portland – transcripts from the public meeting held in Portland, Oregon, on May 13, 2003.
LM	Mass letter – consisting of identical comments per letter.	THR	Transcript Hood River – transcripts from the public meeting held in Hood River, Oregon, on May 14, 2003.
LMM	Modified mass letter – consisting of comments that are a variation on a mass letter.	TSE	Transcript Seattle – transcripts from the public meeting held in Seattle, Washington, on May 15, 2003.